was absolutely normal and there was no fear about safety and security of tourists.

Development of pilgrim places in Maharashtra

590. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the pilgrim places developed during the last three years in Maharashtra; and

(b) the amount of grants sanctioned for each such pilgrim place and the amounts utilised during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) During the last 3 years *viz.* 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, following projects/schemes have been sanctioned and amounts released for development of pilgrim centres in the State of Maharashtra:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the Project	Year	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
Upgradation of Restaurant, tourist reception area etc. at Pilgrims Inn, Shirdi	1998-99	25.00	9.00
Wayside amenities at Ranjangaon	1999-2000	48.68	14.60
Yatri Niwas at Jyotiba	1999-2000	48.39	14.50
Yatri Niwas at Lenyandri	2000-2001	48.68	14.60
Yatri Niwas at Nanded	2000-2001	50.00	15.00

Visa-on-arrival scheme for foreign tourists

591. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the visa-on-arrival scheme for foreign tourists arriving at Indian ports has since been dispensed with;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the scheme proposed to be launched this year would effect the flow of foreign tourists traffic to India; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to augment arrival of the foreign tourists in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

1 (d) Modalities for its implementation are being worked out. In order to facilitate tourists and increase tourists arrivals the proposal of visa-on-arrival is *inter-alia* being actively pursued by the Ministry of Tourism with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

National Tourism Advisory Council

592. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to constitute a National Tourism Advisory Council at the Centre and State level;

(b) if so, the composition of the Council; and

(c) whether journalists promoting tourism through specialised tourism related magazines would also be included in the proposed Council and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Government have decided to constitute a Tourism Advisory Council at national level.

(b) and (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.